Did you know that the Ethnologists (like that the rishtone) say that Buckinghamshire is as Celtic in population as South Wales.

115 Howson Rd
December 22nd 1933 Brockley SE4

I feel greatly honoured . . . .
. . . .

. . . . . the difficulty came to a head in the days of John Sebastian Bach who cut the Gordian knot by splitting the difference "Dont try to put anything exactly in tune; put Everything a little out of tune; make the octave consist of twelve exactly equal semitones; we know that's wrong, but we shall get accustomed to it."

Such ~~advice~~ was his advice, and all the advances of orchestral music since his day have been rendered possible through Everything being a little out of tune.

The ~~staff~~ notationist, therefore, has his own scale, and a very arbitrary one it is; for example, his major third does not present the ratio of 4 to 5. but of 4 to 5·039684, which is quite enough to make the violinist put his finger down at a point about one fourteenth of an inch from where it should be for true harmonic intonation; to make the interval of a major third sound rough instead of smooth on an harmonium, to make the pianoforte unconvincing as a means of expressing simple melody unharmonised, to make the "natural singer" not quite ~~true~~ in tune for orchestral accompaniment, and, as is recorded, to have made the infant Mozart weep when he heard the equal-semitoned scale for the first time*.

The Staff Notationist, pure & simple, has a knowledge of intervals equal to that which his pianoforte or his harmonium might be supposed to have. He recognises.

I like his photograph in Engineering — how like a Frog. jolly nice tell him.

This is like Rene's thing about a Bulgar index of 1 to 6 and an acid color!

trapped at last.

or perhaps this is just what you've known for years — I mean in this exactness

*

like the saints who wouldn't look at their mothers' breasts on Friday not for no threat nor entreaty

Jim and Helen have just returned from Tangier
where it has rained for a month & rate the Barbary desert like Passchendaele for mud.

Tim's gone to Paris this morn
he 'phoned up last night and
seemed in high spirits.

thirteen tones of absolute pitch in the complete
octave, and out of these he makes up all music;
but if you talk to him of a "grave minor sixth"
as being the interval between C on the one hand,
and a note lying between G♯ & A♭ on
the other, you are apt very seriously to
bewilder him. Such an idea is wholly
foreign to his practical philosophy, which
gets over practical difficulties by ignoring
so much, and by fitting everything into
John Sebastian Bach's Procrustean bed.
(immense applauding).

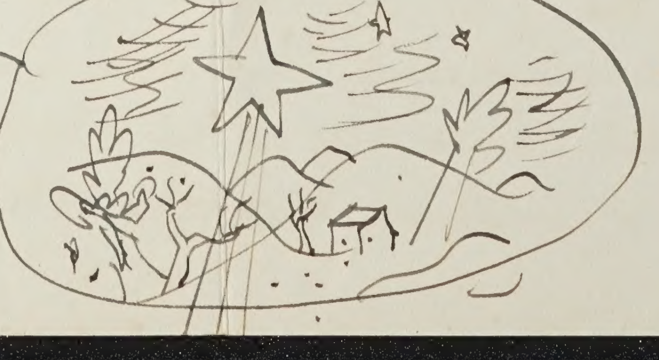
with some pain transscripted from "Some remarks on certain
Vocal Traditions in Wales" by Alfred Daniell
M.A. LLD. D.Sc. F.R.S.E. read before
the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion at
20 Hanover Square on Thursday the 27 January 1910.
Chairman, Sir John Rhŷs M.A. LL.D. Litt. D. F.B.A.

I was at
Camberwell
Art School then,
drawing
stuffed
rabbits;
and Voltaire's
death mask
and reading
George Borrow
& Maurice Hewlett.
what were
you up to?

A HAPPY CHRISTMASS to you
Eric & Mary and everybody. give 'em
my love. Dear Eric I hope you like
this charming bit of stuff I came across
by accident, groping about in my welsh
maze. lots of love to you — nothing
to report on this front — all more
or less unwell — God bless you
all. all my love David.

love to T. B. R should he
turn up at Pigotts

plastic is very
out of hand
as you see.



did you
say you
were 'going
to do some
job at
Croydon?